

Crocus






















Winter honeysuckle



Pussy willow



Mahonia

Pick a plant	Buy me as...	Plant me here...	I like a spot that's...	I flower around...	Bonus feature
Crocus (<i>Crocus</i> species) Plant different varieties for a succession of flowering.				December–March	I carpet any garden or pot with colour, providing lots of food for queen bumblebees emerging from hibernation! I look great in grassy areas.
Winter honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>)				November–February	I'm a magnet for winter-active bumblebees and I have a delightful scent too.
Pussy willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>) e.g. a dwarf, weeping variety such as 'Pendula'.				February–March	With my silver furry catkins, I am a bumblebee superfood , and easy to grow all year round – although now is the perfect time!
Mahonia (<i>Mahonia</i> species)				November–March	I'm a splash of sunshine in winter . My strings of dainty yellow flowers are perfect for winter-active bumblebees.
Key  potted plant  bulb  ground  container  container or ground  sunny  partly shady					

Bumblebees need lots of flowers to feed on. Give them a helping hand by adding just one of these bumblebee favourites to your outdoor space in October.

Our top picks are all easy to look after, and great for beginner gardeners. Simply wait for them to flower, then enjoy watching your local bumblebees feeding.

October is also the month to make the most of what you already have. Remove dead flower heads from your existing plants so they can keep blooming, and collect seeds so you can grow more next year for free!

For more planting ideas, try our interactive Bee kind tool beekind.bumblebeeconservation.org

 Listen using 'Read Out Loud' in Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Top tips:

- Read the instruction label on your new plant or seeds for the best way to look after them.
- Now is a good time for planting as the soil is still warm and increasing rainfall should be on its way!
- Always try to choose **organic, pesticide-free** plants and seeds – these are best for bumblebees.

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